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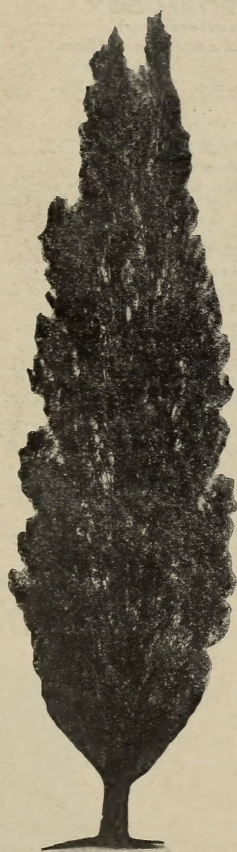




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# Meehan's Garden Bulletin

MARCH, 1912



The sap is rising,  
birds are nesting, Spring is in  
the air; haste, therefore, all  
who would plant before the  
season passes.

Decide on your list of  
needs, order at once and  
plant in the first warm days  
of April.

A few short weeks and  
the golden opportunities of  
Spring will have flown.

Act to-day—to-morrow  
may be too late.

Published Monthly  
by

**THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS**  
Nurserymen and Horticulturists Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

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# Beautiful BOX PLANTS for all Purposes

**Y**OU would be delighted with these splendid Box Plants. They are perfect in every way and will give immediate effects wherever used.

There are so many uses for which they alone are suitable, and you get results from them Summer or Winter, with their bright, evergreen foliage.

In formal positions, such as each side of an entrance, in the formal garden or walks leading to it, at the top of terrace steps, as an edging around a formal garden—in fact, many positions suggest themselves after you see the plants.

Whether you favor one form or another, it matters not, our plants will interest you. We have the formal pyramidal plants, the round, well-developed tree form or standard box, and other kinds as described below.

Should you want one or a dozen you may safely leave selection with us. We will match the plants to suit your special purposes.

Here is a collection. Select those you wish. You know, of course, that the Box is perfectly hardy as far north as Massachusetts, under ordinary conditions. The plants may be used in tubs or planted out permanently.

## SPECIMEN PYRAMIDAL BOX

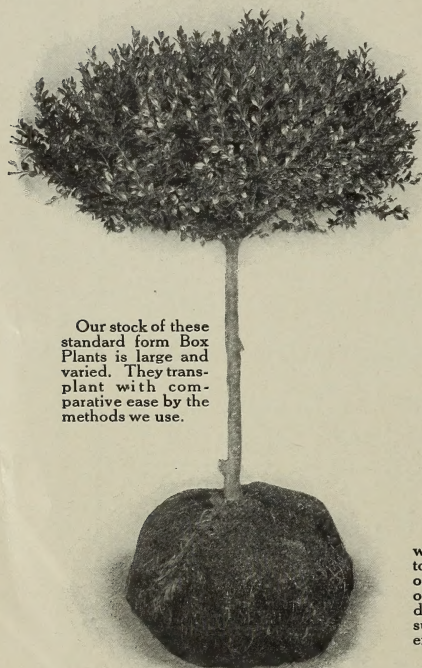
Yes, these are fine, the small sizes as well as the big specimens. Full, compact, nicely developed, and you can secure matched pairs that cannot be told apart.

2 to 2½ ft., \$2.50 each	4 to 4½ ft., \$6.00 each
2½ to 3 ft., 3.00 "	4½ to 5 ft., 7.50 "
3 to 3½ ft., 3.50 "	5 to 6 ft., 8.50 "

## STANDARD or GLOBE-HEADED BOX

Decidedly formal and favorites with almost all who admire the Box. Just the plants for use in formal positions adjacent to a colonial style house. In tubs they are highly valuable for decoration on the porch or near the pergola.

Stems 2½ to 3 ft., Heads 15 to 18 in., \$2.50 each
2 to 2½ ft., 1½ to 2 ft., \$5 to \$6 each



Our stock of these standard form Box Plants is large and varied. They transplant with comparative ease by the methods we use.

Last year we were compelled to turn down orders for some of our pyramidal Box as the supply became exhausted.

## BUSH FORM BOX

(*Buxus arborescens*)

Vigorous growing Box of a most pleasing form.

10 to 12 in. . . . . 50c each

These are fine for hedge use. \$25.00 per 100.

1½ to 2 ft. . . . . \$1.50 each
2 to 2½ ft. . . . . 2.50 "

## GOLDEN JAPANESE BOX

(*Buxus Japonica aurea*)

Bright golden foliage which attracts and holds attention. It is always in demand and not always procurable. Quantity limited.

2 to 2½ ft. . . . . \$3.00 each

## SPECIMEN DWARF BOX

(*Buxus sempervirens*)

We are fortunate indeed to have some fine plants of the old-fashioned, small-leaved Box so popular just at present.

**BUSH FORM**—Unsheared plants of good form.

1½ to 2 ft. . . . . \$1.00 each

**GLOBE FORM**—Extra sized specimens of great beauty.

Only a very limited number. Speak early.

1½ ft. x 1½ ft., full and compact, \$4.50 each

## OLD-FASHIONED BOX EDGING

(*Buxus suffruticosa*)

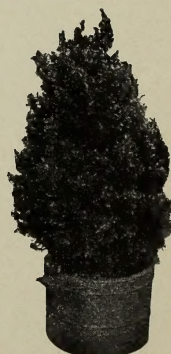
These are the small plants used in such quantities for edging beds and borders in gardens. Our plants are fine.

4 to 5 in. . . \$ 7.50 per 100
6 to 8 in. . . 12.00 " "

**Thomas Meehan & Sons**  
Germantown, Phila., Pa.



Fine, bushy and compact. Easy to handle and useful indoors and out.





# Meehan's Garden Bulletin

VOL. 3

Subscription 50 Cents a Year

MARCH, 1912

No. 7

Single Copies 5 Cents

## The Best Rhododendrons and How to Grow Them

WARREN J. CHANDLER.

OF ALL the broad-leaved evergreens, many of which are beautiful and highly valuable in landscape effects, none begin to compare with the aristocrat of the plant kingdom—the Rhododendron.

Resplendent the year round, with those dark, glossy-green leaves, for which it is renowned the world over, it reaches perfection when its huge trusses of flowers are in their glory.

Such huge clusters, and in all colors and shades, from the white with pale tints of blue and pink to the deep, rich crimsons and royal purple. There are colors to please all tastes.

It is this wide range in colors which makes the hybrid Rhododendrons from Europe far more popular than the pink- and rose-flowered native kinds, though the latter are, of course, more adaptable to our conditions.

### SITUATIONS FOR RHODODENDRONS

As everyone has a desire to grow a clump of Rhododendrons a few suggestions as to the best positions for them will, no doubt, be helpful.

In its natural haunts, the Rhododendron seeks the cool, shady spots where its roots may feed on the black wood soil.

Here is an opportunity for the owner of a woodland strip to edge such a location with a planting of Rhododendrons.

They will do well in shade or where they get partial sun, provided, in the latter case, they have good soil and proper care.

Around a house they may, therefore, be planted on the northwestern, northern, northeastern or eastern side and have every chance of success.

Frequently around old trees they produce decidedly pretty effects, but care must be given in preparing the bed.

As has been stated previously, the hybrid varieties which come to us from Europe are most popular, due to the wide range of flower colors.

From among the large lists catalogued by American nurserymen, the following are selected as representing the hardiest and most easily established kinds. Be guarded in buying the dark-colored varieties unless you know them to be tested kinds, as they are the first to suffer in this climate.

### HYBRID RHODODENDRONS

*Album elegans*. White, tinged pink in the bud. Strong, vigorous grower.

*Album grandiflorum*. Very fine white, tinted blue.

*Atrosanguineum*. Rich blood-red.

*Blandyanum*. Rosy crimson flowers, rich foliage.

*B. W. Elliott*. Deep rose, with dark spots.

*Caractacus*. Truss large, rich crimson. Late.

*Chas. Bagley*. Cherry-red.

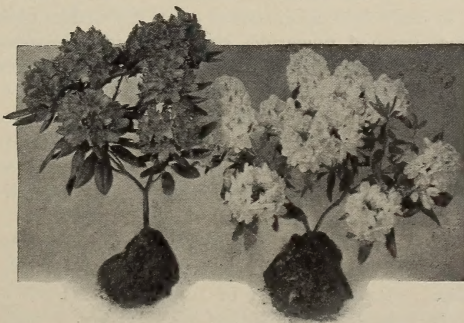
*Chas. Dickens*. Rich scarlet-crimson, fine foliage.

*Delicatissimum*. Blush white, tinted pink.

*Everestianum*. Rosy-lilac flowers, and foliage superior to all.

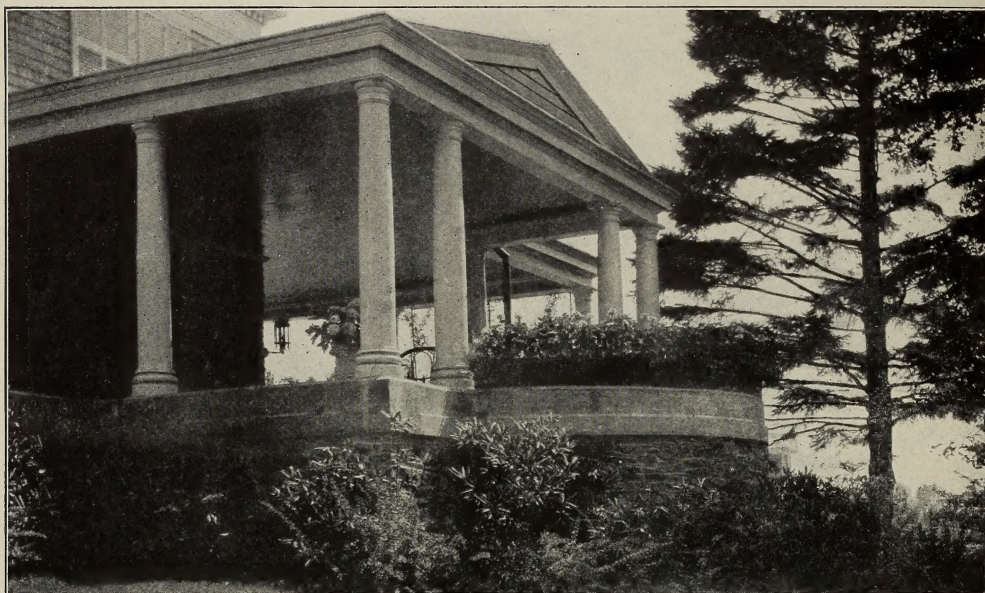
*Gloriosum*. White, with a tint of violet.

*John Walter*. Rich crimson, of beautiful form.



The Hybrid Rhododendrons flower when quite small as is well illustrated by the specimens pictured.





Note the harmonious result from grouping Rhododendrons around this elaborate wall. The distinctive appearance of the Rhododendron lends it to such choice settings.

*Lady Clermont.* A rosy-scarlet with deep dots. Distinct.

*Lady Gray Egerton.* Silvery-white, with blush.

*Michael Waterer.* Scarlet, intensely bright.

*Mrs. J. Clutton.* A good white, prettily spotted yellow.

*Mrs. Milner.* Rich crimson, fine foliage.

*Purpureum elegans.* A grand, rich purple. Good foliage.

*Roseum elegans.* An attractive light rose. Compact.

## THE NATIVE RHODODENDRONS

In early July, after all the other Rhododendrons have finished flowering, the light pink blossoms of this grand native species, "maximum," comes into flower.

The huge trusses of blossoms are decidedly attractive. The foliage of maximum is distinct from the others. The leaves are longer and so healthy and vigorous in appearance as to make it decidedly ornamental all the year round.

*Rhododendron Catawbiense*, which is indigenous to the mountains of eastern United States, produces beautiful clusters of rosy-pink blossoms in early June, after the hybrid varieties are through flowering.

It has beautiful, dark, glossy-green foliage, and

is a grand companion plant for maximum, which it precedes in flower.

One of the smallest of the Alleghanian species is *Rhododendron punctatum*. Ordinarily, it does not grow above 6 feet, but is a bushy-growing kind.

In June the rose-colored blossoms appear in the greatest profusion. A most satisfying kind for general use.

The dwarf European *Rhododendron ferrugineum* is a remarkably attractive, bushy plant, splendid for using either in the foreground of a bed or in a rock garden. The deep pink clusters of flowers are quite showy.

One very similar in form is *R. hirsutum*, but differing in being more readily grown in cultivation, and, what is a most important thing to remember, will grow in limestone soil.

## HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY GROW THEM.

It pays to buy good, healthy, well-grown plants in starting a Rhododendron bed, but of equal importance is the preparation of the bed.

You want permanent results, and to get these in a satisfactory way requires a good start under ideal conditions.

Dig out your bed to a depth of about 4 feet and fill in the bottom with about 2 feet of





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broken stone or similar material. This gives good drainage, a condition that is always present in their natural state.

Fill in on top of this with good soil, largely made up of leaf mold and well-rotted manure. Should the soil be heavy, mix in with it some sand to break it up. Peat soil if obtainable is ideal for planting them in.

After the plants are carefully set out and the soil packed well around them, mulch the beds with well-rotted manure.

Each fall, leaves may be used to cover them and allowed to rot and form humus. Do not make the mistake of annually digging up the beds. The Rhododendron is a surface rooting plant and such treatment disturbs the roots and often kills the plants.

Let all mulchings placed around the plants remain to rot and form humus. This gives to the plants the food they require.



The view of an English Rhododendron plantation. There they are grown by the thousands.

## Watering Trees

A newly planted tree, having no leaves, has no use for water to any great extent. If a tree does not push freely after planting it shows that the pruning knife, and not the watering pot, is what is needed. Heavy watering at this time only drives the air out of the soil and compacts it so closely that the plant has not air necessary for the roots as well as the branches. Trees can die of suffocation as well as can individuals. Most observers know that a tree in leaf which suddenly finds itself under an influx of water by the overflow of a river or dam, dies in a few weeks. It is suffocated.

## Hardy Vines

Two of the most hardy vines are *Celastrus scandens*, commonly called Bitter-sweet or Staff Vine, and the Chinese Matrimony Vine, *Lycium Chinense*. Both bear scarlet or orange red fruit, which is very ornamental in fall. They are unusually handsome and distinct from other vines in foliage, and could be used oftener to advantage than is done. The *Lycium* makes a twiggier growth and is not more than of a half-climbing nature, while the *Celastrus*, by pruning, can be similarly grown. The latter has a habit of twining its own stems around each other, making at times a stout stem or rope, which doubtless accounts for the name of Staff Vine. A prominent feature of each is the deep green foliage.

## "Rose of Jericho"

(Resurrection Plant.)

The physical change this plant undergoes in the presence of moisture has led to the above title. It labors under the mind-racking botanical name of *Anastatica hierochuntica*.

It is a member of the "Cress family," and a native of the Syrian and Arabian deserts.

It is an annual, which, after flowering and maturing its seeds, folds up its dried and dead stalks in the form of a sphere, enclosing and protecting its seed capsules, which are persistent.

The simooms, or fierce winds of the desert, uproot the plant, and it is blown into the path of civilization even to the Mediterranean Sea, where most probably it was first noticed that, in coming in contact with water, the dead plant seemed imbued with new life. The rigid branches unfold, as would the petals of a rose to the sun's rays. The imprisoned fruit also opens its capsules and the seed enclosed in it quickly germinates.

This hygroscopic property of the plant has led many people to suppose it really comes to life again, which, however, is not so.

Several other plants exhibit the same sensitive quality in the presence of moisture. One, a moss, which rolls itself into a ball and appears dead, will unfold in water and assume a living green appearance.

There are also plants on which moisture has the opposite effect. For example, *Anagallis arvensis*, "Pimpernel," also known as the "Poor Man's Weather Glass," will close its petals before a rainfall. *Convolvulus arvensis* also displays the same sensitiveness on the approach of rain.

E. MATTHEWS.





A perennial border to be most satisfactory should always have interspersed in it an assortment of annuals.

## A Practical Talk About Annuals

ANDREW McNAUGHTON, Haverford, Pa.

**I**N BRINGING before your readers the subject, Annuals, it is not the writer's intention to write as one who knows "all about"

Annuals or to lay down cast-iron rules as to what you must do in order to succeed with them, and burden the reader with lists of meaningless names, but rather to lead the general flower-loving public to a better understanding of them as a class, and, if possible, prevent some of the disappointment too often following the purchase of these very interesting little plants or seeds.

"Little," did I say, yes, and some very big, from our tall Allegheny Hollyhocks to Sweet Alyssum, from our tiniest creepers to Sweet Peas and Cobaeas; from the stately Castor Oil Bean to the Golden Feverfew at its feet. And "interesting"—has no one ever told you the story of how the Four o'Clocks covered the delicate pollen from the evening dew; how the flowers follow the sun; how some attract bees; how some feed the

ants; how some catch flies with their sticky sap; how their glaring colors in the midday attract the day flies and insects; how some hang their bells to protect the delicate flowers from the sun and rain; how some spread their seed by means of prickly burs, and the "Touch-me-not" by the bursting seedpod? How some like heat; some cold; some the deep cool valley; some the mountain top; and some the burning sandy plain; to say nothing of the endless shades of colors and the peculiar characteristics of the plants in general, denoting to the practised eye its culture and habit, that nature or God has given it for its own protection?

Those that can withstand the burning sun, and dry, sandy soil, and go without water a long time, usually have fleshy leaves, very little root or taprooted; of such are the Portulacca, Mesembryanthemum, and the so-called Ice plants of any kind. These nature has provided with thickened leaves, capable of secreting an abundance of moisture, to





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withstand the burning sandy soil or a prolonged drought, and to over-water or to continually spray will ruin them, for they flower their best when allowed to become dry.

Another group of taprooted Annuals are the Poppies, Mignonette, etc. These should be sown where they are to bloom, as they do not transplant well. While these have somewhat fleshy leaves, there is no depth or thickness to them, as in the foregoing, therefore, they do not transplant well, and the immense leaf surface exposed to the sun, giving off moisture, is too much for the taproot, which has been stripped of its tiny rootlets and feeders. In the case of the Mignonette the leaf is much smaller, and, in the young state, transplants well.

The next group are those that have a multitude of roots and feeders, and, you will notice, usually have very clean, shiny foliage on the surface, with the leaves on an angle, directing the water to the roots, or else one leaf set out beyond the others, so that the water may fall from one to the other. How suggestive of their culture, for the immense leaf surface means plenty of sun; and shiny leaves, water. Of this class belong Asters, Pansies, Ricinus, etc.

Again, the vines that have shiny foliage love the water and sun. Take Cobeeas, Nasturtiums, etc.—how they glory in it.

Then come another group, those that have hollow or pithy stems, sometimes semi-waxy leaves, and usually grow best in damp places, on the edges of woods, where they delight in the deep, cool soil (not sour), with the morning sun, an ideal spot for some of our prettiest Annuals. How the pretty Salpiglossis abound here, the Viscaria, Scabiosa, Candytuft, Leptosyne, Cosmos, Nigella, Annual Larkspur, California Poppies, and hosts of our dainty little friends that come in bold relief after a winter of greenhouse Roses, Carnations, etc.

The next are those on which the upper surface of the leaves are covered with hairs, and with these we will take those that have "bloom" (like you have seen on the grapes before being handled).

While these enjoy being watered, they do not want continual spraying. The *Primula sinensis*, for instance (greenhouse Annual) is covered with hairs, so that it is nearly impossible to wet the leaves. Gloxinia (a bulb, not an Annual) is another example where the water runs off, carried by the mass of hairs on the upper surface of the leaves, while *Primula Kewensis* will take all the water you desire to give it on its bright green hairless leaves. Thus you see that nature

has provided for each according to their several needs.

Then, again, there are two kinds of vines, those that creep and those that cling. Of the former, Nasturtiums will do as an example.

They have no tendrils, nor do they use the leaf stem as such, or twist, but are content to run along the ground, which keeps them cool, and, if planted thus, keep them in check by turning the runners back into the bed. The latter class, to which belong Sweet Peas, Canary-bird Flower, etc., must be trained up to sticks, wire, etc., for the light, air and sunshine are their life.

Now, just a word as to what is meant by the term "Annual" in floriculture. By it we mean a plant which is grown from seed, blooms, goes to seed and dies, having provided for the future within one year.

Very few Annuals, however, require twelve months to complete this cycle; indeed, only a few require more than eight, and the larger portion from four to six, some even less. For this reason they have been called "short-lived," and, on account of the low price of the seeds have been termed "cheap plants," which does a great injustice to the whole class. What lasts better, when cut, than Sweet Peas, Antirrhinum,\* Asters, Salpiglossis, Everlasting Flowers, etc?

As to being "cheap," that is in price, I am glad they are, but in the sense of being unworthy I enter my protest, for there is among them a wealth of color, curious shapes, and delicate shades, suitable for every conceivable purpose.

If the reader will purchase a packet of every type of Asters offered in his seedsman's list, and, when they bloom, note the difference in them, it will be ample proof of the foregoing.

The writer was convinced of this several years ago, when he planted over thirty varieties of Poppies. How interesting they were, what a blaze of glory, and what a range of color!

While Annuals do not require a great amount of attention, they will not stand continuous neglect, and any one purchasing a few packets of seeds, with the pictures denoting the development of the seeds under good culture, are liable to have only the pictures to show for their money if at any time (especially when young) they are neglected.

Now, a few lines regarding their culture. Follow the directions printed on the packets or culture slips, regarding seedage, light, watering, etc.

\*When grown as an Annual.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)





The bright yellow, daisy-like blossoms of the *Doronicum* are open in very early Spring.

## Two Unusual Composites

As is well known, the bulk of our hardy composites flower in late summer and fall, two or three only appearing in spring.

A beautiful little plant of the Daisy family that puts in an appearance early in April is *Doronicum plantagineum excelsum*, or Leopard's Bane.

Its flowers are of a rich yellow, from two to three inches in diameter, and consist of a single row of ray petals disposed around a yellow disk. It blooms very freely and makes an excellent subject for cutting.

Plant in bold groups for effect in the hardy garden.

Another plant of the daisy type, and of a form similar to the above, is *Senecio pulcher*.

This gives a very bright and pretty sight late in the fall.

Its rose-purple flowers are produced on stout stems and are very lasting, both on the plant and when cut for vase work.

Plant in the foreground of the hardy border in groups of five or more.

Sometimes a spring and fall effect is desired for a certain bed in the hardy garden. These two plants massed together would be ideal.

One could have a still earlier effect by planting a quantity of Snowdrops throughout the bed.

E. MATTHEWS.

## Juniperus Virginiana

To describe the Red Cedar as the commonest tree in America would not be very far from the truth. It grows all over the country in some form or another, and seems to adapt itself to very varying conditions. It is to be found growing on hot, dry rocky hillsides, as well as swampy places.

In the extreme North it is inclined to be scrubby, being little more than a bush. In Pennsylvania and New York the form is invariably columnar, very close-growing, with not much spread to the branches. In certain localities in these States it is not an uncommon feature to see long rows of them, not evenly spaced, but in perfect alignment, just as if they had been planted. The explanation of this is that the seedlings spring up along the hedge rows and fence lines, and thus receive protection while in a young state, while those in the open are destroyed by cultivation of the ground, etc.

South of Philadelphia the Red Cedar becomes more spreading in its habits, losing the columnar effect common to the northern growing cedars, especially as they get old and attain large proportions.

Hitherto, on account of the wide distribution of this fine tree and its being so plentiful in a wild state, it has been overlooked by the nurseryman and landscape gardener.

Recently it is receiving more attention, and the demand is constantly increasing for nursery-grown stock for planting. This is as it should be, for there is not an evergreen tree with greater possibilities.

Even in a wild state beautiful specimens are quite common, that would be a credit to any well-kept grounds. How much more so if they were cultivated and cared for. They may not be equal to the Cypress that American travelers so much admire in the gardens of Europe, but it is one that will thrive under American skies, and stand the most adverse climatic and soil conditions.

As in the habit of growth, so it is in color and foliage, extremely variable, the color ranging from deep glossy green to light glaucous green, with many intermediate shades tinged with red, yellow or brown.

This variation has been taken advantage of and some very beautiful types have been perpetuated, and are now propagated in the nurseries, such as *Juniperus Virginiana glauca*, the Silvery Cedar; *pendula*, the Weeping Cedar; *Schottii*, a variety with very bright green foliage; *Aurea*, the Golden Cedar, and others.





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## A Fine Specimen of the Southern Live Oak

Step off a space 200 feet by 200 feet and you will have some idea of the immense spread of the branches of the tree illustrated above,

It is a very fine specimen Live Oak of the South (*Quercus virens*). The tree is peculiar to that locality, not being hardy north of Virginia. It is evergreen. In the extreme South the branches are often covered with long gray Spanish moss, giving the trees a very hoary and weird appearance.

## Hardy Flowers for Cutting

While there is an abundance of flowering perennials for general purposes, it frequently occurs that for something particular the available plants are not numerous nor easily thought of.

In this connection an inquiry reveals the fact that early summer pink or white flowers suitable for cutting do not make a large list.

The following desirable hardy plants are mentioned for the purpose, and our readers may doubtless recall a few additional which may be suggested for the benefit of others:

*Achillea Millefolium rubrum.*  
*Achillea Ptarmica plena*, "The Pearl."  
*Armeria maritima.*  
*Armeria plantaginea.*  
*Dicentra spectabilis.*  
*Gypsophila paniculata.*  
*Hesperis matronalis.*  
*Heuchera sanguinea alba.*  
*Iris Florentina.*  
*Iris laevigata.*  
*Liatris spicata.*  
*Lilium candidum.*

*Lilium speciosum album.*  
*Lilium var. roseum.*  
*Pæonies.*  
*Pentstemon Digitalis.*  
*Phlox decussata.*  
*Physostegia denticulata.*  
*Physostegia Virginica.*  
*Pyrethrum roseum.*  
*Spiræa filipendula fl. pl.*  
*Spiræa ulmaria alba plena.*  
*Spiræa venusta.*

## THE PURPLE Glory Flower of the Autumn

(*Vernonia Jamesii*)

An eminent landscape gardener remarked, "Raise all you can of this plant—it is one of those perennials that are really needed."

This is a plant with good, all-around qualities.

While not a tall-growing plant it reaches 2½ feet and will develop into a well-formed plant.

The stems and foliage remind one of ostrich plumes swaying in the breeze, and keep looking well in the heat of Summer.

As Fall approaches the blossoms open and the rich purple flowers have the same purple tone that dominates the landscape at that time.

Plant it in the background of the perennial border or group with the low-growing shrubs.

Fine plants - 15c each  
 (postpaid 20c)

10 for \$1.20, 25 for \$2.50

**THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS**  
 Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

## The Purple Groundsel OF BUENOS AYRES

(*Senecio pulcher*)

From South America comes this beautiful hardy perennial, a stranger, yet a most welcome addition to any hardy garden in this section.

The flowers—brilliant rosy-purple with pronounced yellow centers—are strikingly handsome and come in clusters displayed to good advantage on stems two feet high.

Does well in any light garden soil and thrives in New England, and of course, further south

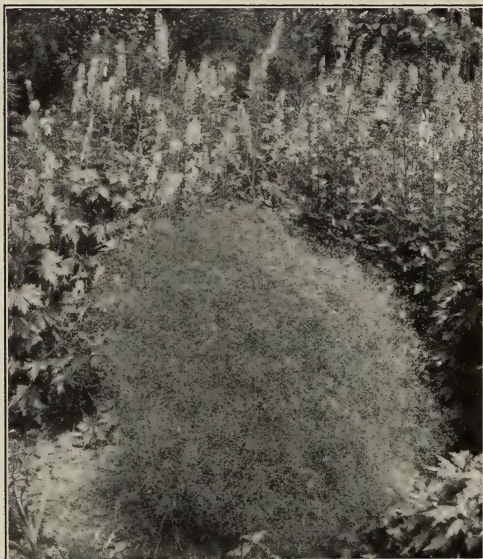
Fine plants 15c each, (postpaid 20c)  
 10 for \$1.20

**THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS**  
 Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.





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### The Delicate "Baby's Breath"

— a requisite to every well-arranged bouquet

The misty, spray-like foliage and blossoms of this attractive perennial have been found to be almost a necessity in well-schemed gardens.

They add to a bouquet that finishing touch which is really the art of forming an attractive grouping of blossoms.

This Spring we have a new variety, *Gynophila Stevensi*, superior to the old, well-known form in several respects.

The flowers are produced in greater profusion and appear at least two weeks earlier.

Decide to-day that you will have this beautiful perennial among your plants this Summer. These plants of ours will flower this season.

**Strong, healthy plants, 15c each (postpaid 20c). 10 for \$1.20, 25 for \$2.50.**

**THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS**

Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

### The Blue-eyed Grass

(*Sisyrinchium Bermudianum*)

The pretty blue flower of this plant appeals to one like the violet. It is so small and delicate, yet displayed to an extent that recommends it for general use.

The grass foliage gives an additional touch of refinement which individualizes the plant.

Plant it in groups, never singly, and you'll be delighted with the results.

There is a good showing of blossoms in early Spring and another in Autumn.

**Strong plants - 15c each  
10 for \$1.20, 25 for \$2.50**

**THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS**

Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

### Hardy Plants That Force Well

**W**HEN autumn's latest flowers, such as the New England Aster, Hardy Sunflower and Chrysanthemum, make their reluctant exit, we naturally mourn their loss, but console ourselves with the thought that after winter's snows and cold we shall eventually be greeted with spring's abundant floral treasures.

If, however, we have the facilities and the desire we can span the period of waiting to some extent by hastening the coming of some of the early flowering, hardy plants, many of which respond readily to a little artificial heat and are excited into bloom a month to six weeks before they naturally would outside.

We have not in mind the forcing of plants on an elaborate scale, such as is practised by the florist, but merely of taking a few of the kinds that naturally flower early and, with a little effort, coax them to unfold and open the numerous sealed calyxes while winter still holds sway.

It is not absolutely necessary to have commodious greenhouses or a high degree of temperature to secure results, though, of course, with these at your command you can bring the plants in flower very much earlier.

If one has, however, but a modest structure with heating facilities sufficient to keep the temperature at night above freezing, a few of the best flowering shrubs and perennials could be brought gently along and would at least be sufficient to give us quite a little display of color for our rooms.

Among hardy perennials capable of being forced easily into bloom, the following are good:

*Dicentra spectabilis*, Bleeding Heart.

*Doronicum plantagineum excelsum*, Leopard's Bane.

*Iberis sempervirens*, Candytuft.

*Primula Polyanthus*, Primrose.

*Convallaria majalis*, Lily of the Valley.

*Aquilegia*, Columbine.

*Iris stylosa*.

*Iris pumila*.

*Alyssum saxatile*.

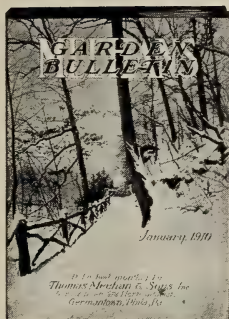
*Arabis albida*, Rock Cress.

The above could be wintered in pots in a cold frame, and if kept protected from the extreme cold of winter, the warm March sun, if economized, would be sufficient to bring them into flower quickly, without recourse to artificial heat other than the heat of the dwelling to which





# MEEHANS' GARDEN BULLETIN



## SPECIAL Garden Bulletin—Mallow Marvel OFFERS

You will want some of our glorious Mallow Marvels in your garden this Summer, and if not already a subscriber to the "Garden Bulletin," take advantage of the special offers below.

1 Mallow Marvel, 2-year root . . . 75c  
1 Year's Subscription "Garden Bulletin" }

3 Mallow Marvels, 2-year root, 3 colors . . . \$1.75  
1 Year's Subscription "Garden Bulletin" }

**THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS**  
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.



the plants could be transferred as soon as they show the flower bud.

In hardy flowering shrubs we have a larger selection, and these, of course, afford a much greater quantity of bloom.

The very easiest to handle in a small way are :

*Deutzia gracilis.*

*Deutzia Lemoinei.*

Both have pure white flowers in abundance, and, being dwarf, are easily handled in a small space.

*Azalea mollis.*

*Azalea pontica.*

Dwarf plants, fragrant flowers in showy colors of red, orange and pink.

*Forsythia*, Golden Bell.

One of the easiest of shrubs to respond to forcing, and always satisfactory.

*Spiraea prunifolia.*

*Spiraea arguta.*

*Spiraea Van Houttei.*

*Spiraea Thunbergii.*

These four are splendid subjects for forcing and are graceful and decorative. All have pure white flowers in quantity.

*Syringa*, Lilac.

Nothing need be said about these. All the *vulgaris* types are very amenable to forcing.

*Magnolia stellata.*

Unfolds readily under gentle heat and rewards us with beautiful white, star-like blossoms.

For use in large conservatories, several of the *Pyrus* and *Prunus* are very beautiful, as are also the pink and scarlet flowering English Hawthorns. Usually their size prohibits the use of them except for large structures. A fairly high temperature, too, is needed to bring them into flower early.

## SPECIAL ART PRIZES AN ART CONTEST OPEN TO EVERYONE

OUR Second Competitive Art Exhibit of Floral Paintings will be held in the Autumn of 1912. All artists who may be interested in this coming event may, on application, have full information with entry card.

The First Prize will be \$100.00, Second Prize \$50.00, Five Prizes of \$10.00 each. If interested write to-day.

**THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS**  
GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Nowadays the city park conservatories, such as Horticultural Hall, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, and Phipps Conservatory, Schenley Park Pittsburgh, make a special feature of the early flowering trees and shrubs, and these, in conjunction with other plants of flower and foliage, make a veritable wonderland.

The thousands of people who flock to see these displays show strongly that the effort to give us a foretaste of spring is appreciated.

E. MATTHEWS.

## The Lawrence Pear

This has long been conceded to be one of the best pears for preservation for winter along the Atlantic portion of our continent. A very close competitor, however, is the Buerre d'Anjou. It is said that sometimes one of these will do better in one section than the other. At any rate, no one will go wrong in planting either.





## A Practical Talk About Annuals

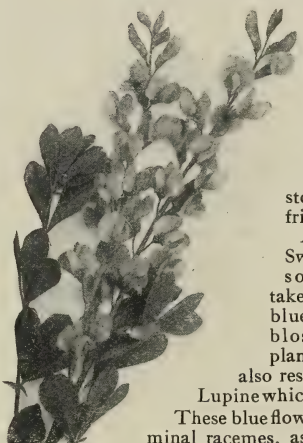
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

After the seed leaves appear, if the plants show a tendency to rot or damp off, transplant at once into other pans, boxes or flats, using a small dibber or pointed stick (not much thicker than a lead pencil) for this operation. Set the tiny plants out about an inch apart each way, according to their size, and water well with a fine spray. After the first watering keep them moist, but not sodden.

All that is now necessary is to keep them growing, increasing the water as they increase in size, and transplanting them into other boxes when they crowd one another.

## BLUE FALSE INDIGO

(*Baptisia australis*)



Some years ago we saw the many merits this beautiful, native perennial had, and at once decided to grow a substantial stock and tell our friends about it.

All who admire Sweet Pea blossoms will be taken with the deep blue, pea-shaped blossoms of this plant. The flowers also resemble the Blue Lupine which is so popular.

These blue flowers come in terminal racemes, as shown in the photograph, and from May until July are ready for cutting—a use for which they are well adapted. Throughout the season the foliage is attractive, in fact, a feature worth mentioning.

The False Indigo flourishes in a warm spot, and will also, on occasion, thrive in a little shade.

Splendid for grouping with White Foxglove, White Lupine and similar perennials.

Try a group of ten plants. Next season you'll double the bed.

**Strong plants, ready to flower, 15c each (postpaid 20c). 10 for \$1.20, 25 for \$2.50.**

**THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS**  
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

Success with Annuals depends entirely on having good, clean, healthy plants, before placing outside where they are to bloom.

If the plants have been raised in a greenhouse it will be necessary to harden them before planting outside. This is done by gradually giving them more air, or, better, to place in a cold frame, taking off the sash during the day, allowing more air each night, as the season advances, until they can be planted outside. If sown outside, merely thin out or transplant where they are to bloom.

### WHAT TO PLANT.

For the beginner who desires to have a few plants that are sure to do well I have attached the following list; for the more advanced grower, list No. 2, together with those already mentioned and those offered in the seed catalogues.

Regarding the time required, from the sowing of the seeds until they bloom, also the height they grow, if not marked on the packets, ask your seedsman to write it on the backs of them for you.

If the Aster bugs trouble you, use "Nicofume" solution, one tablespoonful to one gallon of water, apply with a syringe or fine sprayer in the evening. If not strong enough, increase until they disappear. If they are very bad use one tablespoonful to the quart, and they will usually disappear after two or three applications.\*

### LIST NO. 1.

Celosia, in variety.  
Stocks.  
Marigolds.  
*Phlox Drummondii*.  
*Gypsophila elegans*.  
Delphinium—Stock-flowered.  
Schizanthus, in variety—Dwarf and Tall.  
Zinnias.  
Nasturtiums.  
*Helichrysum monstrosum*.  
Clarkia.  
Godetia.  
Balsams.  
Rodanthe.  
Scabious.  
Wallflower.

### LIST NO. 2.

Nemesia—Blue Gem.  
*Nemesia—Suttonii*.

\* The writer tried this remedy last summer, and it apparently did the work.





## MEEHANS' GARDEN BULLETIN



*Convolvulus*—Minor *Roseus Superbus*.  
*Brachycome*—Blue and White.  
*Saponaria vaccaria*.  
*Agrostemma coeli*.  
*Emmenanthe penduliflora*.  
*Erysimum perofskianum*.  
*Phacelia campanularia*.  
*Collinsia*—Mixed.  
*Anagallis grandiflora*.  
*Lobelia prima donna*—Crimson.  
*Lobelia alba*—White.  
*Lobelia*—Blue, in variety.  
*Linum coccineum*.  
*Erysimum arkansanum*.  
*Celosia*—Pride of Castlegould.  
*Candytuft*—White Spirial.  
*Calandrinia*—Red and Rose.  
*Nigella*—"Miss Jekyl."  
*Dimorphotheca aurantiaca*.  
*Leptosiphon androsaceus*.  
*Linaria*—Mixed.  
*Lupines*—Blue, White, Pink.  
*Nemophila*.  
*Matricaria*.  
*Poppy*—Sutton's Large Double, in variety.  
*Poppy*—Shirley Double.  
*Poppy*—Shirley Single  
*Viscaria cardinalis*.

### Apple Trees for Beauty of Flowers

Few flowers are greater favorites than those of the apple, and they often figure in decorations. Blossoms of the Red Astrachan and Transcendent Crab are particularly large and showy.

### EXTRA FINE SPECIMEN PIE CHERRIES

These splendid trees are absolutely the finest sour cherry trees we have ever offered for sale and we don't know of another lot approaching them in size or quality.

These trees are 8 to 9 feet high with good, stout trunks and well-formed heads. All have good roots and the crowning point is they are all Early Richmonds, the best sour cherry on the market.

These trees are going to go quickly and we will surely have to disappoint someone.

Why be among the disappointed?

Send in your order to-day.

Single trees, \$2.00 each  
 5 for \$7.50

**THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS**

Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.



The popularity of the *Spiraea Van Houttei* is easily explained after noticing the profuse floral display it makes every Spring. Pretty flowers, neat foliage and graceful habits all combine to retain its hold on the plant-loving public.

### Spiraea Van Houttei

#### The Finest Spring-Flowering Spiraea

You have surely seen this beautiful shrub in flower during May, the graceful, pendulous branches clustered full of snow-white blossoms? At that time the plant looks like a "drift of snow." No wonder it is called the Bridal Wreath. It well deserves the name.

After the blossoms have gone there is considerable beauty not only in the graceful growth but the foliage as well. This is light green, attracting the eye in contrast with the deeper greens of the other shrubs.

Plant this shrub, individually or in groups or masses. It will never disappoint.

These plants of ours are just the size for planting, from which to get quick results.

	Each	Per 10	Per 25
1½ to 2 ft.	\$0.25	\$1.30	\$2.75
2 to 3 ft.	.35	1.50	3.00
3 to 4 ft.	.50	2.00	4.13
4 to 5 ft.	.75	3.50	7.50

**THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.**





# MEEHAN'S GARDEN BULLETIN



## SPECIAL GROUP OF Hardy Garden Phlox

You cannot have too many plants of the Summer-flowering hardy Phlox. They are useful for so many purposes.

Bright cheerful colors, excellent blooms for cutting, and in flower for some weeks.

Our collection is large and very well assorted.

Let us send you this special group.

25 strong vigorous plants, 5 each  
of 5 distinctive named kinds for **\$2.50**

**THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS**  
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

## STOKE'S BLUE ASTER

No wonder the name Aster attaches itself to this flower—the resemblance to our common annual China Asters being marked.

However, this splendid plant has the additional merit of being perennial.

From June until September the blossoms come, extending the plant's period of usefulness.

As it only reaches eighteen inches at best, it makes a splendid border perennial.

Vigorous plants, 15c each (postpaid 20c)  
10 for \$1.20, 25 for \$2.50

**THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS**  
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

## The Dwarf Wild Rose

This, the *Rosa lucida* of older botanists, though several species are often confused under this name, is one of the most popular of Wild Roses. The flowers are large in proportion to the size of the plants, which is not often more than a foot or two, while it has probably the sweetest odor of all Wild-Roses. It is common through most of the Atlantic States, and loves to grow along borders of woods and roadsides, where its delightful fragrance may please the traveler. It also possesses the charm so eminently connected with American plants, of changing its leaf-tints to a brilliant style in the fall of the year, and after these have fallen, the rosy, berry-like haws keep up an interest in it till quite late in the season. It is a gem amongst wild flowers.

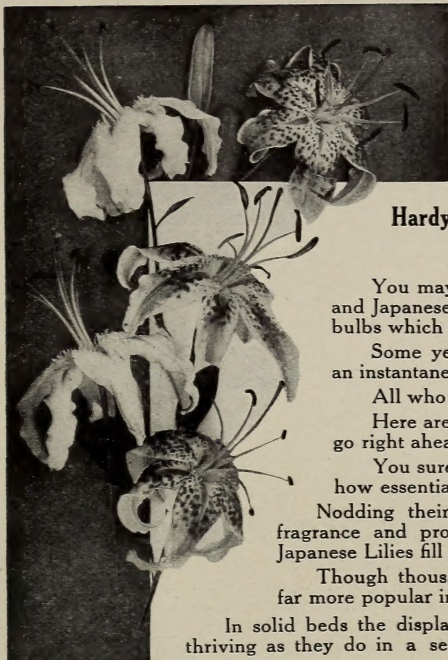


Splendid foliage and attractive single blossoms are two merits of the *Rosa lucida*.

## Azalea amoena

It is a very distinct species from the ordinary Chinese Azalea, the leaves being very small and somewhat leathery. The bright wine-colored flowers are also not half the size of the ordinary





## MEEHANS' POTTED LILIES

**Hardy Lilies grown in pots especially for those who neglected to plant the bulbs last Autumn**

You may have a wealth of bloom this Summer from American and Japanese Lilies if you get us to send you some of these pot-grown bulbs which are already started.

Some years ago we experimented with the idea and it was such an instantaneous success it is now a business in itself.

All who have bought in the past are enthusiastic.

Here are plants already started and which on being planted out go right ahead and create effects.

You surely know how wonderfully beautiful these lilies are and how essential to all well-planned gardens.

Nodding their graceful heads in mid-summer, filling the air with fragrance and producing wonderful results, the graceful American and Japanese Lilies fill a distinct position in the hardy garden of to-day.

Though thousands are now planted annually, we predict they will be far more popular in a few years, when they become better known.

In solid beds the display is gorgeous, and yet, occupying such small space and thriving as they do in a semi-shady situation, they are happy among shrubs or rhododendrons where they can raise their heads above the plants and flower in all their glory.

Pot-grown plants of all these varieties, well rooted, and will give an abundance of flowers this season.

**25c each, 10 for \$2.25, 50 for \$10.00**

*L. auratum.* Gold-banded Lily. Pure white with gold band.

*L. Batmanniae.* Rich apricot.

*L. Canadense.* Wild Meadow Lily. Orange yellow.

*L. elegans.* Various colors.

*L. longiflorum.* Easter Lily. Pure white.

*L. speciosum album.* White Japanese Lily.

*L. var. Melpomene.* Bright rich red.

*L. var. roseum.* Fragrant rose-colored Lily.

*L. superbum.* Turk's Cap Lily. Orange spotted.

*L. tenuifolium.* Coral Lily.

*L. tigrinum splendens.* Improved Tiger Lily.

*L. umbellatum.* Large various colored lilies.

### SPECIAL LILY OFFER

If you wish an assortment, get us to send you this special group.

**25 potted plants in  
8 distinct kinds for \$5.00**

**THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.**

Azalea, and these are produced in such immense quantities that frequently scarcely a leaf can be seen. For bordering the larger kinds of Azalea it is incomparable. The original species, from which the one in cultivation was obtained, does not seem to have been introduced from China. The one we have has the ordinary green calyx turned into a corolla, so that the flower presents the singular appearance of one flower being pressed into another, just as one teacup would be occasionally fitted into another teacup. It is very hardy, and will successfully come through the severe Northern winters.

## The New Silver Blade Grass

(*Arrhenatherum bulbosum*)

A brightly-variegated, dwarf, ornamental grass, excellent for use as a border for your perennial bed, in your rock garden, or in fact any situation where a dwarf, bushy-growing plant is wanted.

It is almost white with green striping and grows from eight to ten inches high in bushy clumps.

Though new and almost unknown it will shortly be in great demand.

Our price puts it within the reach of all.

**15c each, (postpaid 20c)  
10 for \$1.20, 25 for \$2.50**

**THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS**  
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

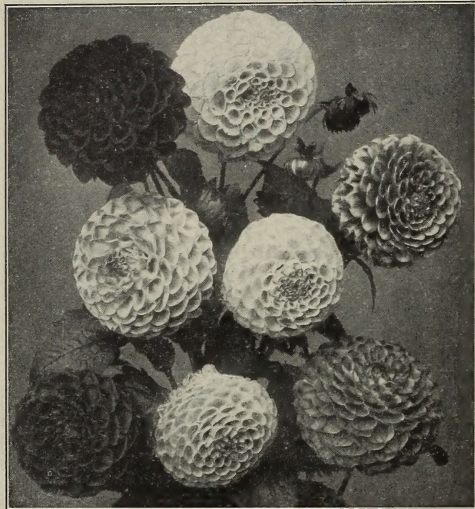


# A Selected Group of Dahlias and Gladioli

## ABOVE THE AVERAGE IN QUALITY

Here you will find the very finest collection of leading varieties of Dahlias and Gladioli. No need to go through a maze of kinds and wonder whether your final selection is right.

These roots are **field grown**, and far superior to the small potted plants and rooted cuttings so frequently sent out. Many of the varieties we list below are among the specialties offered by other growers and dealers.



### Gold Medal Dahlia Group

A well-assorted collection of twenty dahlias, five each of the four classes listed below, for **\$3.00**

#### CENTURY DAHLIAS

A splendid group of single, very free-flowering dahlias, which start blooming early and continue until frost. Excellent for cutting.

**Cardinal Century.** Just the color the name suggests, rich cardinal. Best dark red, single.

**Delicatissima.** White flushed pink. One of the largest.

**Fringed 20th Century.** Flowers from 7 to 8 inches in diameter. Bright crimson shading to a white edge, and a pronounced white disc in center.

**Gladys.** Brilliant rosy crimson, white disc in center with golden yellow in the direct center. Excellent.

**Maroon Century.** Deep maroon shading to black.

**Rose Pink Century.** Immense single pink flowers of great beauty. Field grown roots, 20c each (postpaid 25c)  
10 for \$1.80, 100 for \$15.00.

#### CACTUS DAHLIAS

These beautiful varieties, with their artistic, narrow-pointed florets, are the choicest of all Dahlias.

**Country Girl.** Large, deep golden yellow, tipped amber.

**Floradora.** Beautiful pure garnet.

**Florence M. Stredwick.** A beautiful pure white variety.

**Kriemhilde.** Deep rosy pink center shading lighter.

**Miss D. Oliver.** Soft primrose shading to light yellow.

**Standard Bearer.** Bright clear scarlet.

Field grown roots, 20c each (postpaid 25c)  
10 for \$1.80, 100 for \$15.00.

#### DECORATIVE DAHLIAS

All of this class have large flowers, double, full to the centre, but open and irregular in formation. An intermediate class between Cactus and Show Dahlias.

**Blue Oban.** Soft lavender blue. Nearest approach to a true blue dahlia.

**Jack Rose.** Brilliant crimson-red, rich and glowing. Wonderfully fine.

**Lyndhurst.** Brightest vermilion, very free-flowering.

**Maid of Kent.** Rich cherry red tipped white.

**Prof. Mansfield.** Unique in color. Yellow tipped white with deep red marginal coloring.

**Sylvia.** Flowers 4 to 6 inches in diameter. White center shading to soft pink.

Field grown roots, 15c each (postpaid 25c)  
10 for \$1.80, 100 for \$15.00.

#### SHOW DAHLIAS

The full, globular, perfect formed class, which have been known for years.

**A. D. Livonia.** The very finest clear bright pink show dahlia.

**Arabella.** Soft primrose shaded deep rose. A dependable variety.

**Queen Victoria.** Large rich golden yellow.

**Red Hussar.** Rich, dazzling cardinal red.

**White Dandy.** A large pure white flower of great beauty.

Field grown roots of any of the above 20c each (postpaid 25c) 10 for \$1.80, 100 for \$15.00.

## Gladioli of Known Merit

These beautiful Summer-flowering plants should be in every yard, large or small.

So inexpensive and yet so beautiful, they are practical to use everywhere.

You need not question the following. They are the cream of the best strains and cover all the shades from white to deep crimson and blue.

#### SILVER TROPHY STRAIN

**Group No. 1—Scarlet Shades.** Newest reds, scarlets, and crimson. Wonderfully bright and showy. \$3.00 per 100.

**Group No. 2—Light Shades.** All shades of cream and yellow, including white. Many beautiful combinations relieved by dashes of rich color. \$4.00 per 100.

**Group No. 3—Blue Shades.** Wonderfully beautiful shades of lilac, heliotrope, blue, and allied colors. Not obtainable in the cheap kinds. \$5.00 per 100.



#### GROFF'S ORIGINAL HYBRIDS

The amateur can secure great satisfaction from these hybrids. They are the original introductions of Mr. Groff, and certain shades from pure white to the darkest red and crimson. Flowers are large, well formed, and properly arranged upon the spikes. \$1.50 per 100, \$12.00 per 1000.

Dotted here and there among the other plants, the sprays of Gladioli flowers are decidedly bright and cheering in late Summer.

**THOMAS MEEHAN & SONS, Germantown, Phila., Pa.**